

The Warrant Articles for 2020 Annual Town Meeting – postponed to June 22, 2020
Amend the General Bylaws

ARTICLE XX. Amend General Bylaw – Town Election Date

To see if the town will vote to amend the Stow General Bylaws, Article 1, Section 2 to read in its entirety as written below; or to take any action there to.

(Town Clerk)

SECTION 2. The annual town meeting for the election of officers and such other matters as may be voted on the official ballot shall be held on the Saturday of May of each year, immediately following the start of the annual meeting, provided that in no event shall such election be held later than the third Saturday in May.

Summary

The change to Saturday is requested because the polling locations are in the schools and school is not in session on Saturdays. Student safety is a priority and the students are not in the building on Saturday. If the school closes on a Tuesday for an election it means adding another day to the end of the year. There is more parking for voters when school is not in session.

This may help increase voter turnout. Town elections typically draw 10% turnout.

Annotated version

Add - **Bold Underline**

Delete – ~~strike through~~

SECTION 2. The annual town meeting for the election of officers and such other matters as may be voted on the official ballot shall be held on the ~~Tuesday~~ **Saturday** of May of each year, ~~which falls on the eighth day following the date of the~~ **immediately following** start of the annual meeting, provided that in no event shall such election be held later than the ~~last Tuesday~~ **third Saturday** in May.

ARTICLE XX. Amend Zoning Bylaw Boating Regulations and Police Regulations at Lake Boon

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaw by amending Article 6. Police Regulations, Section 21. Boating Regulations at Lake Boon to read in its entirety as stated below; and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format of the General Bylaw; or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Lake Boon Commission)

ARTICLE 6. POLICE REGULATIONS

SECTION 21. Boating Regulations at Lake Boon

Lake Boon is a Great Pond in the state of Massachusetts. That means that it is governed by the boating regulations established by the state, and it is the boater's responsibility to know and follow those laws and regulations. In addition, there are specific rules on Lake Boon, violation of which could result in a fine.

RULE 1. SPEED

(A) No person shall operate any motor boat on Lake Boon at a speed that is greater than is reasonable and proper under the circumstances and conditions then existing, or operate same or manipulate any water skis, wake board, tube or similar device in a negligent manner so that the lives or safety of the public might be endangered or property damaged.

(B) Speed in any of the narrows shall be such that no appreciable wake is produced, but in no case to exceed the minimum necessary to maintain steerage way. The Narrows are defined as the areas between the first and second, and second and third, and third and fourth basins.

(C) Speed during the period from one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise shall be such that no appreciable wake is produced, but in no case to exceed the minimum necessary to maintain steerage way.

(D) The hours of 2-6 PM on Sundays and on the Massachusetts State holidays of Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and Columbus Day are designated for canoeing, sailing, swimming and other non-motorized uses of the Lake, and the maximum speed of any motorboat shall be the minimum necessary to maintain steerage way.

RULE 2. WATER SKIING & TOWING

(A) Water skiing, tubing and wake board riding is prohibited in any of the narrows, and in the third and fourth basins.

(B) Only one tow line is permitted from a boat, and the towing of more than two (2) persons on any towed device is hereby prohibited.

(C) No tow line shall exceed seventy-five (75) feet from the point of contact on the tow boat to the object being towed.

RULE 3. BOATS

(A) No vessel may be used as a residence, either permanently or temporarily, on the waters of Lake Boon.

(B) No air boat, so-called, which requires a propeller or propellers which are located above the surface of the water for the propulsion of a boat shall be used or allowed on the waters of Lake Boon except vessels as described above which are operated by any governmental subdivision or department.

(Section 21 adopted 2/26/63)

Annotated version

Add -

Delete -

ARTICLE 6. POLICE REGULATIONS

SECTION 21. Boating Regulations at Lake Boon

Lake Boon is a Great Pond in the state of Massachusetts. That means that it is governed by the boating regulations established by the state, and it is the boater's responsibility to know and follow

those laws and regulations. In addition, there are specific rules on Lake Boon, violation of which could result in a fine.

Rule 1. No person operating a craft propelled by other than muscular power shall allow said craft to approach closer than seventy-five (75) feet to another craft unless said second craft is stopped and a closer approach is for the purpose of communicating with the occupants of the second craft; nor circle around any craft in a manner as to annoy or endanger the occupants of other crafts; nor pass between moored rafts or floats and the shore. No craft shall operate at a speed that endangers the life, limb or property of any person. No towline shall exceed seventy-five (75) feet from the point of contact on tow boat to object being towed. *(amended 5/20/74)*

Rule 2.

A. EQUIPMENT

All motor or power boats on the Lake, whether or not required to be registered under State law shall display the lights and be equipped with a proper muffler or underwater exhaust as is or may be required by Sections 5 and 6 of Chapter 275, Acts of 1960, or acts in amendment thereof, or regulations made thereunder.

B. RULE 1, SPEED

~~(1A)~~ No person shall operate any motorboat on the Lake at a speed that is greater than is reasonable and proper under the circumstances and conditions then existing, or operate same or manipulate any water skis, surfboard or similar device in a negligent manner so that the lives or safety of the public might be endangered or **property damaged**.

~~(2B)~~ Speed in any of the narrows shall be such that no appreciable wake is produced, but in no case to exceed the minimum necessary to maintain steerage way. **The Narrows are defined as the areas between the first and second, and second and third, and third and fourth basins.** *(amended 5/20/74, 5/8/84)*

~~(3C)~~ Speed during the period from one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise shall be such that no appreciable wake is produced, but in no case to exceed the minimum necessary to maintain steerage way. *(amended 5/20/74, 5/8/84)*

~~(4D)~~ The hours of 2:00 to 6:00 P.M. on Sundays and **on the Massachusetts State** holidays, ~~including of~~ Memorial Day, Independence Day, ~~and~~ Labor Day, **and Columbus Day** are designated for canoeing, sailing, swimming and other non-motorized uses of the Lake, and the maximum speed of any motorboat shall be the minimum necessary to maintain steerage way. *(amended 5/8/84)*

C. RULE 2, WATER SKIING & TOWING

~~(1A)~~ Water skiing and skipboard **wake board** riding is prohibited in **any of** the narrows, ~~between the first and second and second and third and~~ **in the** third and fourth basins at all times, and is prohibited on all the waters of the Lake between 2:00 and 6:00 P.M. on all Sundays and holidays including Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day. *(amended 5/8/84)*

(2) No person operating a boat with a water skier, skipboard rider or similar device in tow shall bring such device, or rider or the boat within seventy five (75) feet of any other boat, dock, pier, raft, wharf, float or a person or persons swimming or any part of the shore except to embark or disembark, and except as allowed under Rule 2.C.(1), in the performance of official duties or to render assistance to a boat or person in need of it. *(amended 5/20/74)*

(B) Only one tow line is permitted from a boat, and the towing of more than two (2) persons on any towed device is hereby prohibited.

(C) No tow line shall exceed seventy-five (75) feet from the point of contact on the tow boat to the object being towed.

~~(3) Two persons, an operator and an observer, shall be in any boat towing a skier, skipboard, or similar device.~~

~~(4) The towing of two or more persons on skis, skip or surfboard or other device is hereby prohibited.~~

~~(5) No craft, skier, or towed object may go beyond the markers set by the Commission at Hanson's Beach except for the purpose of docking at a permanent dock. Craft proceeding to dock or leaving said dock shall enter and leave without delay from the marked area and shall be operated so as not to endanger any swimmer.~~

Rule 3. When any person having charge of a vessel, canoe, boat or motorboat approaches another vessel, canoe, boat or motorboat, head and head, that is, end on, or nearly so, it shall be the duty of each craft to pass on the left side of the other. But, if the course of such vessel, canoe, boat or motorboat is so far on the left side of each other as not to be considered as meeting head and head, each shall pass on the left side of each other. When any person having charge of a vessel, canoe, boat or motorboat overtakes another vessel, canoe, boat or motorboat, it shall be the duty of the person in charge of the overtaking boat to pass on the left side. *(amended 5/20/74)*

RULE 3. BOATS

~~Rule 4. Any person who violates any provision of the bylaw shall be punished by a fine of not more than Fifty (50) Dollars.~~

~~Rule 5.~~

~~(A.) Houseboats: No vessel may be used as a residence, either permanently or temporarily, on the waters of Lake Boon. *(added 3/8/72)*~~

~~(B.) No air boat, so-called, which requires a propeller or propellers which are located above the surface of the water (and said propeller or propellers are used with a motor of more than twenty five [25] horsepower) for the propulsion of a boat shall be used or allowed on the waters of Lake Boon except vessels as described above which are operated by any governmental subdivision or department. *(added 3/8/72)*~~

(Section 21 adopted 2/26/63)